

DRAMA OF DRUGS AND DEATH.

YOUNG COUPLE'S FATE. COCAINE AND CHLOROFORM DISCOVERIES.

The veil of mystery surrounding a double shooting tragedy in Edinburgh as a result of which Frederick Allan (22), electrician, and his wife, Clara Stockton Allan, of Northenden-rd., Sale, Cheshire, lost their lives, has been partly removed by police discoveries and by the medical examination conducted for Crown purposes.

There is no inquest in Scotland.

The couple were found shot in their rooms in Edinburgh, and the police are stated to have found there a quantity of chemicals, including chloroform and liquid cocaine, and a number of new needles for hypodermic syringes.

The police are stated to be of opinion that the man must have been addicted to drugs, and subject to temperamental irregularities. His wife, it is believed, had endeavored to keep him from becoming a victim of the habit, and unpleasantness resulted, in which the husband may have lost control of himself.

A post-mortem examination was conducted by Professor Harvey Littlejohn, and the nature of the wounds was such as to support the theory that the man first shot his wife, and then turned the revolver upon himself.

The wife had one wound and the husband two, the second shot having smashed the man's skull and ruptured the brain.

The landlady stated that when she went to the room in which the tragedy occurred, the door was opened by Allan, who appealed to her to get help, saying he was bleeding to death. The police theory is that he was already mortally wounded, and that a shot which the landlady heard afterwards was the one which ended his life.

Mr. Allan, the dead man's father, interviewed at Edinburgh, was unable to explain the tragedy. To all appearances, he said, his son and wife lived on most affectionate terms. They met for the first time three years ago, and were always very happy together.

They were married on September 15 in Edinburgh, and their first letter home stated that it was an extremely nice wedding. All their letters since then were to the effect that they were very happy together.

According to the landlady the couple were on good terms, but had a quarrel the day before the tragedy.

The landlady also recalled that some time ago Allan locked himself in the bathroom, and Mrs. Allan called out, "Come out, Fred; don't do it." Afterwards they appeared to be on perfectly friendly terms.

HUSBAND SUES WIFE.

MONEY IN A CUPBOARD AND CHARGE OF THEFT.

A strange story was told at Stratford Police Court when Mrs. May Bell (26) was charged with stealing £3, the property of her husband, Arthur Bell.

The prosecutor, a G.P.O. sorter living at 30, West End-avenue, Leyton, said that he requested his wife to put a certain amount of money each week in a wardrobe in order to pay rates and contributions to a building society.

On December 15 he saw his wife walking in the street with another man. He refused to admit them to the house.

Later, on the advice of a police constable, he admitted his wife to the house. She asked him to forgive her, but he refused.

On asking for the key of the wardrobe, Mrs. Bell said she would get it, and left the house.

Later he found his wife at a house in Leyton. When he told a detective that he intended to charge her with stealing £3 she offered to pay the amount, but he would not take it, and she was locked up.

Mr. R. Collyer, the chairman, said he was of opinion that there was no case against the woman. Perhaps she would have paid the rates. Besides, she was the prosecutor's wife. They would discharge her, and make no order as to the £3.

DEFAUDING DOMESTICS.

Well-Deserved Punishment for Putney Canvasser.

"I have lived in hell for months," said Arthur James Jullien (36), a canvasser, Erpingham-rd., Putney, who at South-Western Court yesterday was sentenced to six weeks' hard labour on three charges of obtaining money by means of a trick from Putney domestic servants.

Accused represented himself to be an agent of the Prudential Assurance Company, and obtained sums varying from £1 to £25.

The police stated that they knew of 18 cases in all, and suggested there were others. Eighteen months ago Jullien was employed by the Prudential, but was discharged for gross neglect of duty.

Accused said that in the hope of getting money to repay the women he had frequented which drives and on more than one occasion been within a point or two points of winning a £50 prize.

EFFICIENT IMPERIALISTS.

The recent growth of the Junior Imperial League has led the council of that organization to offer for competition a challenge shield and a cup, which will be awarded to the two branches which exhibit the highest general efficiency during the coming year.

Increase in membership (which is open to both sexes); the promotion of outdoor and indoor political and social gatherings; assistance in various phases of political work, will be the main considerations in awarding the trophies, each of which will be held by the winners for a year.

Branches of the League, the headquarters of which are at Palace Chambers, Westminster, are being formed in all parts of the country.

CHEAP EX-CHRISTMAS FARE.

Crowds thronged Smithfield and Farringdon-st. markets yesterday morning on the look-out for a bargain in the shape of a cheap turkey or goose.

Most of the trade was carried out by Dutch auction, and English turkeys of good size were readily snapped up at about a shilling a pound, while the "foreigners" had a good sale for anything between eightpence and twopenny per pound. Ducks had a ready sale at ninepence a pound.

WOMAN'S LOVE FOR A GAOL-BIRD.

"THE ONE PERSON TO KEEP HIM STRAIGHT."

A man named Andrews told the Windsor bench, when charged under the Prevention of Crimes Act, that his appearance in the court was due to the fact that he had fallen in love, and he had tried to obtain money for the sake of the girl.

He declared it was the first time he had fallen in love. The girl knew nothing at all of his wrongdoing. If he was sent to prison he believed she would wait for him. He thought if he could marry the girl she was the one person in the world to keep him straight.

He was very fond of her, and she was fond of him.

The Chief Constable said he thought that what Andrews had said was true, but he had a very bad record, and had been in and out of prison since 1902.

He thought, however, that the girl might make all the difference to the man.

Sir Frederick Dyson told Andrews that they could do no less than send him to prison for three months.

They hoped the girl would wait, and when he came out would make him a better and a happier man.

TRAGIC CURSE.

"MAY YOU BE PARALYSED . . . BEFORE MORNING."

How a curse was followed within a few hours by a man's death was described at an inquest held by Mr. W. B. Purchase, at Poplar.

James Haddrell (53), a single man, had been living with a married sister at Bromley-by-Bow, who stated that the family had been greatly upset by some intemperate lodgers in the house.

These had created a disturbance, one shouting out several times, "Curse you. May you be paralysed in your bed before morning."

The following morning Haddrell was found dead in bed, and medical evidence was given that his death was due to cerebral hemorrhage.

A doctor stated that it was quite possible that the disturbance of the previous evening might have had something to do with his death, and in recording a verdict of "Natural causes," Mr. Purchase suggested that the sister might like to take proceedings in another court.

GENTLEMAN BEGGAR.

ONCE WEALTHY MAN WITH £4 A WEEK ALLOWANCE.

Well educated and having a private income of £4 a week, William Beresford Orde Lisle (37), once the owner of big estates in Northumberland, was fined £1 at Kingston-on-Thames for begging.

Lisle, who is of no fixed abode, said he was on his way to his parents' home at Reading and found himself at Kingston with only a shilling in his pocket.

Nearly a year ago Lisle was charged with begging at Highgate, and a solicitor instructed by the man's family said that he had squandered the vast estates he inherited from his father. He had never done a day's work and now existed on an allowance of £4 a week from his mother.

It was over 10 years ago that Lisle inherited a fortune from his father and began to get rid of it with amazing rapidity. In little more than a year he is said to have squandered nearly £10,000.

COULD NOT FACE HIM.

TRAGIC HOME - COMING FOR HUSBAND ON LEAVE.

Verdicts of wilful murder and suicide whilst of unsound mind were returned at the inquest at Grappenhall, Warrington, yesterday, on Edith Elizabeth Richards, wife of a traffic inspector on the Nigerian railway, and their three-year-old son, whose bodies were recovered with a perambulator from the canal.

Mrs. Richards left a note in which she made an accusation against her brother-in-law, William Shaw.

The accusation was denied by Shaw, who also declared that he had not made any statement to the police.

The husband, Cyril Davis Richards, said that in a farewell message his wife stated that she could not face him when he came home on leave at Christmas.

HUMAN DRAMAS.

YESTERDAY'S SIDELIGHTS FROM THE POLICE COURTS.

The Reason Why.—"I've not been to work this week," said a defendant at Stratford.—Magistrate: Why not?—"I've had indigestion," was the reply.

Parents and Pupils.—During the hearing of an assault case between two women at Willesden a fight was stated to have been carried through one accusing the other of stealing her husband's pants.

"Yes, We Have No"—Attending Tottenham with a badly battered face a greengrocer explained that a man asked for a banana and he merely replied, "Yes, we have no bananas."—Magistrate: And he struck you.—Man: Yes.

Many-Sided Wastrel.—"He writes from an asylum asking for an adjustment in the band," remarked the clerk at Stratford, in a maintenance case when the wife said that her husband was a bandman.

Cost for Bole Frauds.—Sentence of a month's imprisonment in the second division was passed at Greenwich on Walter Richard Roberts (25), clerk, of Warwick, and William Edward Roberts (24), of Payne-st., both of Deptford, for obtaining money by false pretences at Deptford Labour Exchange.

Riggers and Rugs.—Employed casually as riggers, Chas. Gorman (23) and Joseph Gorman (24), both of Deptford, were committed for trial, charged with stealing two rugs, valued at £5, part of the cargo of the s.s. Maid of Miln.—Accused were stopped on leaving Millwall Docks because of their bulky appearance, and when searched each was found to have a rug tied round his waist with string.

Wives and Wages.—"Do you know what your husband earns?" asked the Tottenham magistrate of a wife.—"No, sir," replied the woman, who admitted that she had never known, or even troubled to inquire.—"Oh, you women, you surprise me," said the magistrate, adding, "should have thought that a woman's earnings was one of the first things you would want to know."

VERDICT THAT ASTOUNDED THE WHOLE OF PARIS.

GIRL ANARCHIST UNMOVED WHEN ACCQUITTED OF MURDER.

After one of the most dramatic trials in the history of French justice, Germaine Berton, the French girl anarchist, was acquitted of murdering M. Plateau, a director of the "L'Action Francaise," a Royalist newspaper.

Germaine has been in prison since last January. She was defended by a young lawyer hitherto unknown, named Torres, who pleaded that political provocation and persecution were excuses for the crime. The case has brought him fame in a day.

Germaine, after many attempts to see M. Daudet, the Royalist Deputy, and editor of "L'Action Francaise," managed to obtain admission to the newspaper offices on January 22 last, and left in haste after having shot M. Plateau. She freely admitted the crime.

The verdict has astounded the whole of Paris. There was little chance of a scene when the verdict was pronounced, as the judge ordered the court to be cleared before the prisoner was brought in. The family of the murdered man who brought a civil action against Germaine were awarded one franc damages.

The trial was crammed with dramatic incidents. It was dusk when the two leading questions were put to the jury by the president of the Assize Court. "Did Germaine Berton commit wilful murder? Did she act with premeditation?"

The jury were absent about half an hour, and then they trooped back, the foreman giving the negative answer to both questions. Then from the back of the court came hisses and cries, which caused the judge to clear the court.

The jury's verdict is said to have been in the majority of eight to four. Germaine never lost her composure throughout her remarkable trial. While the Public Prosecutor excited himself into fury as he declaimed against her, she combed her bobbed hair and powdered her nose, occasionally making a cutting remark in reply to some statement which displeased her.

"I am sorry I shot Plateau instead of you," she said to M. Daudet, principal witness against her.

Even when acquitted she betrayed no excitement.

SENSATIONAL SPEECHES.

Sensational speeches were made by the various counsel in the case. The first to rise was counsel for the family of M. Plateau. Next came the Advocate-General and finally M. Torres, who appealed for an acquittal.

The first speech was an attempt to rob the case of its political aspects and to induce the jury to see it not as a question between the two factionist newspapers, but as the plain murder of Marius Plateau by Germaine Berton.

The Advocate-General followed on somewhat similar lines, declaring that Germaine Berton the jury must see only a murderer and the apostle of anarchy. It was a vulgar crime, premeditation was clear, and its character was not political.

But whatever its motives might have been, it was an odious act, for which punishment must be meted out, for which that might follow an acquittal could not be foreseen. The Advocate-General concluded, however, by announcing that the family of Marius Plateau had asked that "extenuating circumstances"

might be granted, and that he himself supported this request, which implies the substitution of imprisonment for the death sentence in the event of a verdict of guilty.

Maitre Torres then rose, and, making full use of his oratorical gifts, delivered the kind of appeal which he knew would be sure of effect. Emotional himself, he played on the emotions, personal and political, of the twelve ordinary Parisians who composed the jury.

It was "not a hero of the war" that Germaine Berton had struck down, he declared, but it was the chief of the Camels, the general of a professional army that was fighting for the King—King whose family had given to Bulgaria a Tsar and to France an enemy. M. Daudet and M. Maurras, the heads of this movement, were the declared enemies of the Republic. "Beware of Fascism," he went on to say.

PROVOCATION.

That was the appeal M. Torres made to political emotion. Then, working upon the sources of human pity, he presented Germaine Berton as the product of her unhappy past, which brought her to such a state of mental exhaustion that she determined to murder M. Leon Daudet.

But him she could not find, and—"almonable fatality"—the loud laugh of Plateau and the conviction that she would not catch sight of Daudet suddenly armed the hand of Germaine Berton. She did wrong in killing, but "L'Action Francaise" had done wrong in provoking her.

A jury, M. Torres concluded, had acquitted Villain, the murderer of Jaurès, and "in order that blood may cease to flow, let this girl here join Villain, absolved to-day and forgotten to-morrow."

After the verdict Berton was immediately taken back to the cell in the women's prison at St. Lazare, and there busied herself in opening some of the hundreds of letters that had accumulated for her since her arrest. It is said that many of them contained offers of marriage and financial support.

A huge crowd gathered outside the prison to greet her, but the police smuggled her through a side door, and she was taken away out of Paris into the country, where she will stay with friends for some time.

The verdict will have a far-reaching effect on the various political factions in the Gay City. It is considered to be a great rebuff to the "Camelots du Roi," to which the dead man, M. Daudet, belonged.

Germaine Berton, who is only 21, is the daughter of a Puteaux mechanic, and her mother was a teacher. When quite a young girl she was associated with the ultra-conservative party fanatics, but suddenly changed over to the Syndicalist Revolutionary Party.

Arriving at Paris in 1921, however, she deserted the Socialists and attached herself to the Individualist Anarchists, choosing her lover from this body.

INFIRMARY AND DEAD BABY.

BROKEN ARM MYSTERY AT INQUEST.

When baby Frank Cole, aged two months, of Dean-st., St. George's-in-the-East, mysteriously broke his arm while a patient in St. George's Hospital, the local infirmary, the mother was not told of the occurrence for three days.

This extraordinary statement was made at yesterday's inquest on the infant, which died a fortnight after its arm was broken.

None of the evidence given made it clear as to how the child met with the accident. The medical superintendent said he had been unable to obtain any evidence that the infant had been in any way mishandled by the nurses, and he had come to the conclusion that it was either due to the child lying upon the arm, or through someone catching against it as they passed the cot, from which it might have been projecting.

He had never heard of an infant's arm being fractured from its lying on it.

He said that the night nurse who was on duty when it occurred was at the present time away on sick leave, and although sent for would not arrive in London in time to attend the inquest.

Dr. H. W. Weir, pathologist, stated he found death to have been due to bronchial pneumonia, and the broken arm had not, in his opinion, in any way contributed to death.

The jury returned a verdict of "Death from natural causes."

During the course of the inquest it was stated that the mother of the deceased had had nine children, five of whom had died in the same institution.

POLICEMAN'S FEET.

GUESSING COMPETITION IN A COURT.

There was a guessing competition as to distance at Highgate Court yesterday.

A constable was asked how far an exhibit on the solicitor's desk was from the witness box, and he replied that it was six feet.

Defending solicitor: I say it is ten feet.

Magistrate: I give the distance as seven feet.

After it was suggested that the constable should step it out. The officer declared that "By my nines the distance is eight feet."

The Court were disinclined to accept this measurement of feet by feet, and a 24-inch rule was called for.

The magistrate's guess of seven feet proved correct.

THRILLING SEA RESCUE.

BANK CLERK HELD UP UNTIL THE LIFEBOAT ARRIVED.

David Francis Blow (23), of Newstead-rd., Lee, S.E., a clerk employed at a London bank, was seen floating in the sea yesterday by a Brighton Palace pier attendant, who clambered down the piles, grasped the man's clothing and held him up until the arrival of the lifeboat.

In the man's pockets were a number of beach boulders, a fair amount of cash, a gold watch, and a great deal of correspondence.

He was taken to the Royal Sussex Hospital and detained.

EDDIE VIVIAN SENT FOR TRIAL.

HEATED OUTBURST.

MYSTERY GIRL'S TALE OF A LOCKED ROOM.

Eddie Vivian, who was the principal witness for the Crown in the Brixton taxi-cab murder trial, and John Dawson were committed for trial at Wimbledon Petty Sessions on charges of burglary and larceny of jewellery to the value of £70 from Wimbledon houses.

Vivian was still suffering from the effects of a fall, and was helped into court and given a seat in front of the dock.

Detective Sergeant Hayman told a dramatic story of how he arrested Dawson and Vivian. After a long observation on Sunday evening, November 25, he followed the pair to a house in George-st., Southwark, S.E. The two men rushed to the steps of the house, and Dawson opened the door with a key and closed it in the face of the officer.

Eventually the landlady opened the door to witness, who said he heard Dawson cry out, "Eddie, the 'tee' after us." Witness then arrested Dawson on the stairs as a suspected person. "At that moment," said the officer, "I heard a noise in the room behind me. The door was locked and I burst it open with my knee. On entering I heard a window being raised and afterwards a thud as if someone was falling into the basement below."

Later, a tribly had identified as Vivian's was found in the basement. Witness said he then went to a room occupied by Dawson and a woman, and in a chest of drawers found several articles of jewellery.

Subsequently Vivian was found lying in bed in a house in Camberwell.

"IT IS ALL LIES." Witness told Vivian that he would be arrested for being concerned with a man named Dawson (Vivian: You did not say that) in two cases of housebreaking at Wimbledon. Vivian said: "All right, I cannot get up. I hurt myself on Sunday night. I was run into by a motor car, and am in great pain." He was taken to Southwark Police Station in a taxi-cab, and on his arrival there was ordered to Guy's Hospital.

Detective Wood said that on hearing the nature of his injuries in the hospital Vivian declared: "I am glad you pinched me this morning."

Here, Vivian stood up and said passionately, "Stop those wretched lies. It is all lies."

Witness said that Vivian continued, "Because I should have laid there and died. I feel so bad and have been in agony ever since I dropped out of the window on Sunday night."

The next witness was a tall, prepossessing young woman who asked that her name and address should not be divulged. Speaking in low tones, she said that she was a waitress and had been living with the prisoner Dawson for about 12 months. On the night of Nov. 25 she said Vivian and Dawson came to the house. Vivian came to witness's room and locked himself in, leaving Dawson outside. He took two packages from his pockets, which he put in one of the drawers of a chest of drawers. Later the detectives came.

"A DANGEROUS MONSTER." "A drunken man in charge of a motor makes the vehicle a dangerous monster," said Mr. Waddy at Tower Bridge yesterday in passing sentence of a month's imprisonment in the second division on Wm. Thos. Turner, Meadow-row, Old Kent-rd.—Accused declared that he was sober.

Creeps on you Unawares

THE reason kidney disease is so serious is that it comes on quietly, and often gains a firm hold of the sufferer before he realises what is wrong with him.

It is a good plan to watch the kidneys and keep them well. Any stubborn pain in the back is cause to suspect kidney weakness. So is a discoloration of the urine, and pain or irregularity of the passages. And if there is rheumatic pain, headache, lassitude, nervousness, or dizziness, don't delay. Bear it in mind that early kidney and bladder troubles are easiest to cure.

Use Doan's Backache Kidney Pills to stimulate, soothe, strengthen and cure weak kidneys. This remedy is used and recommended all over the civilised world.

Price 3/- per box. Insist upon Doan's, the kidney pills your neighbours use.



"Every Picture tells a Story."

11 Years Rid of Rheumatism

On 29th September, 1912, Mr. W. H. Cawthray, 22, Thistle Street, Huddersfield, said—"I shall never forget the suffering I endured when I was laid up for six weeks with rheumatism. Stabbing pains took me just over the kidneys and extended between the shoulders. The water was badly disordered and full of a dark sediment, causing acute pain when seeking relief."

"At last I was induced to try Doan's Backache Kidney Pills. They did me good, and later rid me completely of kidney trouble."

On 24th June, 1923, Mr. Cawthray said—"There has been no return of rheumatism or kidney disorder since Doan's Pills cured me."

(Signed) W. H. Cawthray.

15 Years Free from Dropsy

On 1st April, 1908, Mrs. E. Eckert, 28, Wilson Road, Reading, said—"I was in a dreadful state with dropsy. My body filled with water, and my legs became so heavy I could not lift them. It was impossible to wear my boots. I ached in every limb and was racked with pain across the back. The bladder acted irregularly; sometimes there was hardly any action at all."

"As I made no headway I resolved to use Doan's Backache Kidney Pills. They cleared the system, and made me feel like a different woman altogether."

On 3rd May, 1923, Mrs. Eckert said—"My health continues good, thanks to Doan's Pills."

(Signed) E. Eckert.

DOAN'S

Backache Kidney Pills.

BEWARE THE COUGH OR COLD THAT HANGS ON

If you let a cough or cold get a hold of you at this time of the year you are simply inviting trouble. Chronic coughs and persistent colds lead to serious lung troubles. You can stop them now with Parmit, a soothing, efficacious remedy, that brings quick and sure relief, even in stubborn cases. This Parmit treatment is easily prepared at home, and, in spite of its small cost, there is nothing better for either children or adults.

From your chemist get 10s. of Parmit (Double Strength), take this home and add to it one half-pint of hot water and four ounces of sugar or two dessert-spoonfuls of golden syrup or honey; stir until dissolved. Take one dessert-spoonful four times a day. When double strength Parmit is taken in this way it clings to your throat as you swallow and there it spreads itself in a soothing, healing film over the sore inflamed membranes and brings quick relief. It is truly astonishing how quickly it acts, penetrating through every air passage of the throat and lungs—loosens and raises the phlegm and you get a good night's restful sleep.

A real persistent, obstinate, clinging cough will not yield to the old slower-acting remedies, get thousands testify that Parmit brought them immediate relief after everything else had failed. Anyone who has coughed all day and all night until they have worn themselves out can appreciate a splendid treatment like this.

THE LION LEADS IN CURING



To show suffering from SCALA ANGINA, WHITEWASH, CARBUNCLES, PRICKS, POLIARIA, WOUNDS, or any SKIN DISEASE, SCALA, BIRMINGHAM, etc. send 6d. to the nearest branch.

BURGESS' LION OINTMENT

It brings all the aching matter to the surface, and both skin underneath—not dried up to a hard crust. Available in every household for Cuts, Burns, Stings, etc. or all Diseases from 1/6 to 5s. 6d. per tin.

E. BURGESS, 21, Gray's Inn Rd., London, W.C.1.

BABY CARS from £2:19:6

Direct from Factory on Approval. CARRIAGE PAID. RETAIL PROFITS SAVED. Cash or Easy Terms.

Send Now for Free Catalogue.

GOLIVA CARRIAGE CO. (Dept. 13), COVENTRY.

£1,000,000 AIR COMBINE.

PLANES MUST FLY OVER 2,000 MILES A DAY.

The details of the agreement between the Government and the new Imperial Air Transport Co., Ltd., have now been issued.

The new company has been formed "for the purpose of operating a heavier-than-air air transport service in Europe, including the Mediterranean and the Black Sea."

The firms embodied in the company are the Handley-Page Transport, Ltd., the Instone Air Line, Ltd., the Daimler Hire, Ltd., and the British Marine Air Navigation Co., Ltd., with a capital of £1,000,000.

All the directors and shareholders are at all times to be British subjects, and the Government are entitled to nominate two of the directors.

The agreement is to come into operation on April 1 next, and until the subsidies paid to the company under the agreement have been received, the company is to maintain an efficient air service for the transport of passengers, mails, and freight between London and Paris, London and Brussels, London and Amsterdam, Southampton and the Channel Isles, and other approved places.

For the first four years a minimum of 800,000 miles in any year have to be completed, with an average minimum of one million miles per year for the four years, and a minimum yearly mileage of one million for the subsequent years.

For the first four years the subsidy payable to the company by the Government is £137,000 a year; during the fifth year £112,000; in the sixth year £100,000; for the seventh year £96,000; during the eighth year £70,000; in the ninth year £52,000, and for the tenth year £32,000.

These subsidies are subject to reduction should the agreed mileage not be completed.

Another clause provides that after a dividend of ten per cent. on the paid-up capital has been set aside for distribution to the shareholders, any balance remaining shall be divided as follows: One-third in repayment of the subsidies, one-third for the development and improvement of the service, and one third for distribution among the shareholders.

All construction necessary for the air service and so far as possible all accessories used in connection therewith and all important repairs shall be done made or carried out on British territory (emergency repairs only being carried out on foreign territory), and aircraft engines and accessories used by the company for the air service shall be of British design and manufacture.

MY old friend Gosport is the father of a most ingenious son. He is always inventing something or other, and most of the friends of his fond parents generally have to prove the practicability of these creations of his fertile brain.

His latest invention he calls the "Pickpocket's Terror." He recently listened to the skilful way in which some petty purloiner had "lifted" a couple of "fishers," a street door key, and a three-penny bit with a hole in it from my hip pocket while riding in a crowded tube train.



Young Gosport at once eagerly besought me to try his "Pickpocket's Terror."

I had just changed over my money from my discarded pair of "brooks" into its successor's hip pocket when something rang out very sharp and clear on the ambrosial atmosphere of our front parlour. It sounded something like a compromise between the ticking of an old-fashioned chime clock and a punch-bell.

The Chief's face lit up with delight. "Did you hear it, my love?" she said. "Yes, my sweet honeycomb," I answered.

"I believe that old ormolu clock that ma gave us on our wedding day has started going again," she said, but on further inquiry she discovered that "ma's" present had not made a second's movement since, like that grandfather's clock of popular song fame, it had stopped short some six years since, "never to go again."

Feeling both a little saddened by the reminiscences that ormolu clock had summoned up—to tell the truth, I had always hated the thing—the partner of nearly all my debts and quite all my joys, accompanied me to the door to see me safely off the premises on my way to my daily toil.

I had scarcely handed her out a chaste and not too emotional kiss, when she said: "There's a spot of white on your coat-tails," and gave me a smart rap over that portion of my anatomy where a driver generally applies his whip to his horse when he wants his Rosinants to "see up."

The mysterious metallic sound rang out once more. I stood still and wondered: the wife turned pale, said it was an "omen," and she would run over to Clapham to see her Aunt Tilly and have "a cut at the cards" to gather thereby

A NEW YEAR'S RING : By CHRIS.

how her future lay, and get the mysterious matter cleared up.

Strangely enough, I met Meallings coming down the road and he was full of complaints about a cold in the head he was suffering from; said it sounded at times as though half a dozen express trains were chasing each other under the roof of his skull, each with their locomotive steam whistles at full cock. I asked him if his cold or the echoes of it in his head had ever taken the form of an unaccountable and intermittent ringing of a muffled bell. Meallings gave me a searching look from under his eyebrows, said "No!" and earnestly impressed upon me the fact that he never went over the eight per cent, and took plenty of water with it.

He left me, in a great hurry to catch his No. 63, and, after a time, my car came along. There was plenty of room for me, the only inside passenger being an irritable-looking old gentleman and a shock-headed, dirty-faced boy of some 12 summers, with a mouth-organ in one hand and a huge slice of bread and butter, out of which he had bitten several half-moons, tightly clasped in the other.

It was apparent to me from the first glance at the conductor, whose neck was very red and whose hair was tinted by the same aggressive colour, that he had got out of "the wrong side of the bed" that morning and was out for blood. It was also very evident that he had a bias against the shock-headed boy, who said "Hare, please!" to me, and I immediately hitched up my hip-pocket and handed him a slice of my bread and butter, which he took with a flourish, but he had no sooner punched my ticket and the same had been noted in the usual manner by the conductor's bell punch than another "ring" declared itself.

The conductor then proceeded to punch the ticket of a new arrival, and just as I was returning my change to my pocket the shock-headed boy's punch bell rang out and almost immediately what appeared to be an echo followed. The conductor, without any hesitation, made a plunge for the shock-headed boy, and, seizing his slice of bread and butter, hurried it out of the car, and meanwhile tucking up the cuff of his coat sleeves, said: "Now then, young fellow my lad, a joke's a joke, but there's a limit with railin's round it. I've stood your 'yank' long enough; you've been trying to blow a soon on that instrument of your'n ever since we left the



try to dubble me on me own punch bell. So out yer go, d'ye 'ear?!"

He grasped the shock-headed boy by his coat collar, but that juvenile, not having worked out his child's ticket by another mile, stood upon his rights and gave the red-necked conductor a kick on the shins that would have startled an elephant and caused him to emulate with great agility the skill of that champion one-legged dancer I saw at the Montpelier Music Hall some years ago.

As the fracas threatened to become general and the shock-headed boy

Details of new Problem Solving Tournament for Chess and Draughts will be found on Page 16. The competitions will begin in next Sunday's issue. Readers are invited to compete for a large number of prizes.

wanted to play an accompaniment to the conductor's dance, I left the car and completed my journey to the office on foot.

I met a friend of mine, MacAlpine, on his way. He enjoys a story, so I told him of my adventures, and after beguiling him into "The Crusaders' Arms," I reached to my pocket for the pelf to pay for refreshment, when, lo! and behold, the same mysterious "ring" which had haunted me all the morning declared itself again. The landlord few back into the saloon bar like an electrically propelled football. "My, what's that?" he shouted. Then he gave Mr. MacAlpine and myself a most suspicious look and made the inquiry, "Has anybody been mucking about with the bloomin' till?" We indignantly denied the imputation. Then I leant my back against a chair to enjoy a laugh, and again the bell-like note rang out its clear clarion call. The landlord flew round like a human humming-top and put both his fat hands tightly on the till as if to prevent it flying away, and said, "Kibber somebody's having a game with me or the blessed thing's haunted."

I left him still holding the till down while MacAlpine remained with him and tried to get at the bottom of the mystery. That night I went home in an overcrowded bus; then something started off with a ring and kept it up without a break. A man with no eyebrows and very small eyes who sat close to me turned very red. There were loud cries of "Turn that fellow out who's carrying that slammed alarm clock." I rose and someone followed me; in fact, he couldn't leave me, for his hand was firmly clasped in my hip pocket. It was the man with the little eyes, who turned out to be "Nimble-fingered Sam," and despite his excuse that he had simply put his hand in my pocket to keep it warm, he got six weeks' hard from the local Cadi, and young Gosport, "Pickpocket's Terror," got quite a big advertisement free of all charge.

A DOCTOR'S WAY WITH INDIGESTION

THE wife of a well-known London physician became a sufferer from digestive disorder, and, naturally enough, she asked her husband for a remedy. The doctor made her up some medicine of the kind usually given to mild cases, but it failed, so, without more ado, he practised his own remedy, and the results were astonishing even to the medical man. From the first dose all traces of discomfort vanished, and the one-time sufferer could eat anything she fancied with relish and minus any fear of after-effects. More than that, her complexion improved wonderfully, and, as may be surmised, the doctor is now one of the army of enthusiastic medical men who praise Blaud's Magnesia and recommend it in cases of stomach trouble. This preparation is readily obtainable at any chemist's and any reader who is in need of a real remedy for indigestion, dyspepsia, or other such trouble should invest in 3d. in a package without delay.



Cuticura Hook Pimples

On rising and rubbing gently under the pimples with Cuticura Ointment on end of the finger. Wash off the Ointment in five minutes with Cuticura Soap and hot water. Continue treating for some minutes, using the Soap freely.

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This Song must not be cut out and sold separately from "The People."

Sung and Whistled by ALBERT WHELAN.

WHISTLING FOX-TROT SONG.

Words by GEO. P. FAGAN.
Fast-Trot Tempo.

Music by W. A. MANAHAN.

PIANO.

Key A♭.

1. Now Rag-time Joe was that kind of beau Who won scores of hearts with song, . . . But
2. With her heart Lu-lu soon did part To her rag-time whis- tling Joe, . . . She

cute Lu-lu . . . was his "Wa-ter-lou," Somehow love to her seem'd wrong; . . . Joe But
took him to . . . her Pa-pa, who, When Joe ask'd for Lu, said "No!" . . .

sang all day in his cut-test way, But he just sang in vain, guess . . . Till
when Pa heard that cute re- frain, He said to Joe- "I

some-one said, "Don't sing in stead, Just whis-tle this re- frain." . . . Oh!
you'll just whis- tle once a gain, I'll change my "No" to "Yes."

rall.

MELODY.

Come with me, . . . my pretty Lu-lu, . . . Don't turn my love a-side I pray, . . . I'm

Melody to be well marked.

a tempo.

cray-mad . . . in love with you, Lu, . . . You've got the sweetest win- ning lit-tle way, . . . Oh!

do not fear . . . that lov-ing me, dear, . . . Will be a wrong-ful thing to do, . . . Then

come with me, and love but me, My cu-ty lit-tle sweet Lu-lu . . .

* For Dancing only play verse very staccato.

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IF LABOUR COMES INTO POWER.

The morning after the night before usually brings more or less chastening reflections. Even politicians are not exempt in this respect, and some of them who either denounced the Government or damned it with the faintest praise during the elections are now regretting their action. For they dread the sequel, and well they may if the omens are to be relied upon.

For what is the country up against? Mr. Asquith, for merely selfish party reasons, is preparing to sell the pass and let in Mr. Ramsay MacDonald with his Labour army and camp followers, and it will not be long before the Labour army and the camp followers change places—the followers will lead and the "leaders" will follow. "And those behind cry 'Forward,' and those in front cry 'Back.' " 'Twas ever thus when Demos got the bit between his teeth, as many men far cleverer than Mr. MacDonald have discovered to their cost.

Already the extremists in the Labour Party are perfecting their plans to drive their nominal leader full steam ahead, and we can hardly believe that a man of Mr. Asquith's political experience and sagacity is blind to the peril that will accompany the pace. He cannot fail to realise the mischief—the deadly mischief—that can be wrought by the weapon of administration alone without any effort at legislation. Clever manipulation can corrupt and debauch our Civil Service and undermine the forces of the Crown, and our Socialists and Communists are clever manipulators, because they are untrammelled by any of the checks that go with a sense of moral responsibility.

The merest outline of the programme of these extremists is sufficient to make sober-minded men begin to think furiously of what will follow Mr. MacDonald's accession to office. Schemes are being worked out in detail and brought up to date for the establishment of trade unions in the Navy, Army, Air Force and police, so as to capture the rank and file as adherents to Labour. The police strikers are to be at once reinstated, and the most capable of their given good positions in the force. The utmost endeavours are to be made "to put out of gear the Secret Service, and to substitute one of our own building."

Nor is this all. A close study is being made of Mussolini's tactics, not with Mussolini's intention to preserve freedom, but to destroy it. And our Secret Service is being examined so that its working may be understood and the sources of its information ascertained. Here are some of the weapons which Mr. Asquith proposes to place in the hands of a party closely allied to our enemies in Germany and Russia. A defeated Labour candidate recently stated that the Labour Party might come into office, but would not come into power. Well, the weapons re-

ferred to may not be power in its full sense, but they are just the weapons which will enable the Labour Party to obtain all the power it wants.

The nation's fate will not be in the hands of the MacDonalds, Hendersons, Thomases, and so on, but in the hands of the wild men, who will quickly drag those theoretical reformers from their seats and consign them to the limbo of well-meaning humbugs. And Mr. Asquith and his doctrinaire followers may find that, once having opened the flood-gates of anarchy, it is beyond their power to close them.

This is where the danger lies, and the country will do well to think it over while there is yet time.

THE GREAT CRUSADE OF BRITISH BROTHERHOOD.

Fellowship of the Empire Exhibition.

By SIR JOHN FOSTER FRASER.

THE man who first thought of establishing the Fellowship of the British Empire Exhibition is to be congratulated.

We know the Exhibition is going to be "the greatest on earth," that it will be a grand panorama of what the Empire is accomplishing, that thousands of our kinsmen from overseas will be given glad greetings on visiting the Motherland.

But behind and through and all round the Exhibition is a great, instructive, Imperial idea. There was the possibility that people would come and marvel and then go away, enthusiastic over what the Empire means, but missing the characteristic of all Britons whether they come from Vancouver or Brisbane, Invercargill or Johannesburg, Barbados or Hong Kong, Aberdeen or Fiji. So here comes the Fellowship of the British Empire Exhibition, which I suppose all of us can join, and which has the Prince of Wales as its first member.

We will join because we want to make the Exhibition a success, because the Fellowship will be a chain binding together men all over the world who are of the same blood, because we will want to foster trade relationships between all countries within the Empire, and we will wear badges of our brotherhood in gun metal, silver or gold.

The Fellowship will last for the period of the Exhibition, but I vision that from it will emerge a greater and permanent association of men throughout the Empire, who, although far parted, will be animated by the same spirit of imperial patriotism.

No Politics.

Everyone of British citizenship is eligible for membership. We pay our two guineas and receive a parchment certificate signed by the Prince, a ticket admitting us at all times to the Exhibition, and twenty-five single tickets. The dues are not small, and yet it is going to have a far-reaching psychological effect on the hundreds of thousands of citizens of the Empire. It will be like a shake of the hand between all good Britons, whether they call themselves Canadians or Scotsmen or Australians or Irishmen, or New Zealanders or South Africans, with the declaration: "My friend, we meet here at Wembley, but when the Exhibition is over and you go your way or I pursue mine, we've both got work to do to help each other."

Of course, there is nothing political about the Fellowship. It is a bond between men belonging to the same family, though scattered, to assist Empire industry and trade.

The corner-stone of commerce is knowledge, and few of us know all we should know about the Empire. So with the Fellowship will be instituted scholarships to further Imperial education. The scholarships will be of £1,000 each. In the case of the young citizen of the United Kingdom the money will provide for his settlement in the overseas Empire. In the case of the young citizen of the overseas Empire, it will provide for his university or technical education in the Home Country. But perhaps neither of them wants to leave his own land. In that case the £1,000 will be used in giving "a start in life."

Whatever our politics, we all desire to improve trade and so decrease unemployment. We all agree that if we can improve trade within the family circle the better it will be. The politicians do not seem to have been successful in finding a cure for the ills from which the Dominions and ourselves suffer. Yet there must be a remedy, and the first essential is knowledge and good will.

Cobwebs of Misunderstanding.

It is because of its value in this direction that the Fellowship so strongly appeals to me. I am distressedly aware of the ignorance which prevails amongst many Englishmen about the fine free life in the Dominions, and more than once I have been irritated in the Dominions by foolish talk about the decadence of England. Wembley will do much to brush away the cobwebs of misunderstanding; but when the Exhibition has become a memory, those who have belonged to the Fellowship will be missionaries of Empire wherever they happen to be.

It should be a point of honour that membership of the Fellowship be at least 2,000,000—which, after all, only represents one in ten of the expected number of visitors to the Exhibition—because of the fraternal spirit it will engender and because the greater number of members the greater the number of scholarships will be distributed. Here is a great crusading work. I want to see a wave of enthusiasm in support of it.

TALK OF THE PEOPLE

By WIDEAWAKE.

The Germans' Pal.

Mr. Tom Shaw, Socialist M.P. for Preston, has been inquiring into the parlous state of the poor suffering Germans in Berlin and elsewhere. He finds their lot terribly hard, as, of course, he would be found what he went to find. His statements may go for what they are worth, which is very little; they are demonstrably incorrect. But that is of small importance. What is really important is that Mr. Tom Shaw is marked out by the Socialists as the Foreign Minister in Labour's first Government. His credentials are that he speaks French and German, and that he is joint secretary of the Labour and Socialist International, his colleague being Fritz Adler, who murdered an Austrian Prime Minister in 1916.

Mr. Shaw and France.

Mr. Shaw hopes the New Year may bring reconciliation and the healing of Europe's wounds, but it is difficult to imagine such a desired consummation with such a man at the Foreign Office. He shows himself antagonistic to France, and that will not be forgotten if he becomes Britain's Foreign Minister. He is terribly concerned about unemployment in Berlin, but ignores unemployment here at home, where it is infinitely worse. It seems to me that Mr. Shaw would make a much better German Foreign Minister than a British one. I wonder if the British people really would tolerate a Foreign Minister who is joint secretary with a German murderer of an alien organisation whose object is the destruction of British institutions?

Counting Their Chickens.

It is curious to see how confidently political prophets are allotting different Cabinet offices to Members of the Labour Party. And all the time the Government is spoken of as a thing of the past, because, forsooth, it cannot command an absolute majority in the House of Commons. What puzzles me is how the Labour Party is to be more successful than the Conservative Party in the Government of the country, because, unless my recollection altogether fails me, Labour M.P.s are far fewer in number than the present occupants of office.

Party v. State.

The Liberals, with a splendid indifference to anything but a problematical Party advantage, have declared war on Conservatives and Labour alike. Strange that a Party which is supposed to love its honourable traditions of useful public service should boast of its ability to make stable Government impossible! I wonder whether Mr. Lloyd George, for instance, ever recalls the injunctions which he has often given to the electorate to discard petty Party for National considerations?

Poor Old Auntie!

Even the dire scourge of foot-and-mouth disease is not without its humour. The other day the Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, where the plague is at its worst, received the following amazing epistle from East Anglia:—"Dear Sir, Will you kindly send your officials with a humane-slayer to kill auntie at once, in order to prevent the foot-and-mouth disease from spreading, which I am afraid she has contracted."

Conservative Apathy.

I paid a visit the other day to the Conservative central office and found Sir Reginald Hall as full of fight as ever, despite his own personal reverse and the set-back suffered by the Party. He tells me that he attributes the lack of success of the Government to the prevailing vice of conservatism, viz., lack of energy at election times. Many of these who should have been helping in the constituency allowed business or other considerations to take precedence of the more urgent duty of lending a hand to help the cause. Don't let it occur again is the gallant Admiral's stern command.

Capital's Wings.

Every day I hear accounts of capital being transferred from this country into foreign securities. As an instance of this, the trustees of a considerable estate are shortly going to make an

application to the courts to enable them to invest their trust money in securities less liable to depreciation by a Labour Government. And have you noticed how the value of the £ is dropping in New York? I wonder whether the unemployed are really comforted and consoled by these ominous facts.

Fishy Sandy.

I am fed up with fishing stories, and I expect you are also. I am, however, going to tell you the following little tale, partly because it is true, and also because it has very little to do with fish. A friend of mine, hoping to catch the wily salmon in Scotland, was continually disappointed owing to the perverse state of the weather. At last a really propitious day arrived, but alas! it was a Sunday! My friend was anxious, nevertheless, to get to work and asked his Scotch fillet what he thought of the idea. Sandy turned pale at the very suggestion. "Why, mon," said he, "if you go fishing on a Sabbath you'll peril your immortal soul."

British Films.

I hear that the film of "Eugene Aram," founded on the famous novel, is going to be a great success. Thank goodness it is a British production played by British artists! If only film producers in this country were given a fair chance they could give us at least a quarter of the pictures we require instead of rather less than ten per cent. I should think that no body of men were more disappointed at the result of the General Election than the British Association of Film Producers. They had just made out their case to the Board of Trade to give them some protection against unfair American competition.

Chaos in Mexico.

There is an ominous lack of authentic news from Mexico. It seems as if both parties to the civil war are equally matched, and that no decisive result can yet be expected. This is a great pity. Although we are not greatly concerned as to which particular general rules the country, we do want to see stable government in Mexico. Few people realise that British investments in that Republic exceed those of any other country, including the U.S.A.

America's Gayest Resort.

Capt. the Hon. Richard Norton tells me that he and Mrs. Norton are leaving shortly for America on the Aquitania. Capt. Norton has some important business to transact in New York, but I should be very surprised if his business did not allow of his taking a short holiday at Palm Beach, the sunniest and gayest of American pleasure resorts.

Order at Tangier.

The silver lining to the world's great cloud is the conclusion of a Convention regarding the status of Tangier. This unfortunate Moorish port has for years provided a distressing example of the old proverb, "Too many cooks spoil the broth." It was supposed to be governed by the diplomatic representatives of the different Powers. Actually the town's affairs were in a perpetual and bewildering state of chaos.

Harmless Weapons.

Well do I remember the heated discussions, the long process-verbuses and the interminable aides-memoire which befogged the comparatively simple question as to whether the Tangier shopkeepers should be allowed to sell arms and ammunition. After some considerable time, M. Buisseret, the Belgian Minister, achieved a notable triumph. He succeeded in persuading his colleagues to allow the sale in Tangier of cheap and dangerous Belgian revolvers. And then the Corps Diplomatique did the only wise thing ever recorded in its favour. While permitting the sale of revolvers it forbade the sale of ammunition for them.

Outpost of Empire.

The new colony of Rhodesia is delighted with its first Governor, Sir John Chancellor. Sir John is fully maintaining the prestige of our colonial governors. He is, moreover, hospitably entertaining on a large

The Empire Exhibition—British Films—The Germans' Pal.

scale. Salisbury is the capital of the colony, and a very pleasant place, too, with a reasonably warm climate. Not so bad, after all, to be living in an outpost of Empire, when the dear old Mother Country provides us with a hard frost, a heavy fall of snow, and a downpour of rain all on a Christmas Day.

"The Lounge's" Look.

The Sylvan Debating Club, one of the oldest institutions of its kind in London, has met weekly, in the winter months, for fifty-seven years without a break. It is an excellent training-ground for orators and politicians. At the last meeting some charming Georgian silver and glass was presented to Captain Francis D. Grierson, until lately assistant honorary secretary of the Club. The set includes a decanter of which the silver stopper is the work of a famous Frenchman. Captain Grierson will be better known to our readers as "The Loungeer," who contributes a weekly column to this page.

A Great Undertaking.

There is great interest in engineering circles ament the coming construction of the new Tay Bridge. Apparently some half a dozen leading engineers are "in the running" for the preparation of plans and supervision of construction. But the final choice will rest with the Administration. Presumably the Ministry of Transport will have a voice in the selection of the design.

Tropical Medicine.

Those who have closely followed the career of the London School of Tropical Medicine since the days when it was first established through the efforts of the late Mr. Joseph Chamberlain will be gratified to learn that, although it is to be merged in the new Institute of Hygiene, it will still retain its individual identity. The new Institute has been made possible owing to the magnificent gift from the Rockefeller Foundation, and not the least important branch of the work will be that which for just 24 years has been carried on with so much advantage and success by the London School.

The Empire Exhibition.

The construction of the British Empire Exhibition is being pushed ahead so rapidly that night and day shifts are being worked. It will need a supreme effort if all is to be ready by April 14, the opening day. Most of the heavy constructional work has been finished, but all the external mouldings remain to be put in position. The Nigerian village is perhaps most advanced, and alone presents any colour at present. There is plenty of red about it, dye having been mixed with the sand and cement. The Hong Kong and Ceylon buildings seem to be a little in arrears.

The Ex-Speaker's Future.

I shall not be at all surprised if some further light is thrown upon the future activities of Lord Ullswater, to which reference has already been made in this column, when next month at the Guildhall he receives the freedom of the City of London. It is used upon such occasions for the City Chamberlain, who is the Keeper of the green-room's Roll, to address and extend the right hand of fellowship to those whom the City is about to so honour, and in so doing to expatiate upon the services already rendered by the incoming trojan. Sir Adrian Pollock is much too astute a public man to let the opportunity slip if there be adequate foundation for the suggestion, of throwing out a sly hint as to what the future may possibly bring forth.

Beetles Galore.

Very properly, in my opinion, the remarkable collection of beetles formed by the late Canon Theodore Wood, F.R.S., is to find a permanent resting place in the Natural History Museum. Indeed the six thousand odd specimens which he got together have already reached South Kensington. Some day, no doubt, the tale will be told of the adventures which he encountered during the pursuit of his favourite hobby, equally perhaps even those of another Canon of the Church of England who was also an enthusiastic naturalist—the late Dr. Triestram. Canon Wood's father was the well-known Rev. J. G. Wood, who probably produced more books on a single subject—Natural History—than any other author during the whole of the Victorian era.

THE EMPIRE'S FUTURE. FREE TRADE THE CAUSE OF BRITISH UNEMPLOYMENT.

A Reuter telegram from Toronto states that Mr. Massey, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, in an address to the Canadian Club, strongly urged the importance of inter-imperial trade, fostered by mutual preferences. He condemned the free trade policy of Great Britain as the cause of unemployment there. Mr. Massey endorsed the stand taken by France in connection with reparations, because, he declared, Germany had never tried to find the money to pay with. Mr. Massey voted his confident faith in the future of the Empire, which he believed would endure for all time, because it was buttressed by young nations.

SIR WILLIAM HORWOOD.

Relinquishes His Commission in Reserve of Officers. Brigadier-General Sir William Horwood, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, has relinquished his commission in the Regular Army Reserve of Officers and has been granted permission to retain his rank. His position at Scotland Yard is in no way affected. Sir William, who was last year the victim of poisoned chocolates sent by post, succeeded General Sir Nevil Macready as Commissioner of Police early in 1922. Formerly in the 5th Lancers, Sir William was appointed an officer-clerk at the War Office, where he came under the notice of Sir Nevil Macready. During the war Sir Nevil placed him in charge of the prisoners of war camp, and later secured his promotion to Provost Marshal in France. After the war Sir William went with Sir Nevil to Scotland Yard as Assistant Commissioner.

CIGARETTE PAPERS.

FOR AFTER DINNER SMOKING.

By THE LOUNGER.

A WELL come ben the house, friends, an' we'll just ha' a bit crack. Heck, air, there's nae need ta' be waling' while there's a reek in the lun. The deil's awa' wi' th' excise-man, as Rabb said; by whilk Ah'm meanin' that we hae nae prohibition here yet (an' we'll see hee it. Ah'm no' agraun'! Ah'm tellin' ye), sae come ben the house an' ha' a drappie ta' keep the cauld out o' yer banes.

But I forget myself! The Scottish blood pounds in my veins at this season, and my heart yearns for the Land of the Firth, the Haggis and the Brose, and my pen fashions lovingly the dear old phrases of the *haldpaur*, but I must remember that although many a laird will cock his bonnet and swing his phylaxer enthusiastically as he reads these lines, there are many worthy Britons who cannot help their nationality, and who deserve our special pity at this season of good will to men. For them, therefore, I will henceforth write in that hybrid tongue called English.

NEW YEAR, of course, is the great national holiday of the year north of the Tweed. The last day of the old year is called "Hogmanay," and the "Daft Days" is not altogether a bad description of the festival generally.

Scotland is one of those corners of the Empire in which quaint old customs decline to be stamped out by the march of modern materialism. In some of the country districts, for example, the children still dress themselves up in a sheet doubled in front so as to form a large pocket, and parade the village streets singing—

Get up, goodwife, and shake your feathers.
And dinna think that we are beggars;
For we are lairns come out to play—
Get up and gie's our hogmanay.

Briefer and less conciliatory is the following version:—

My foot's cauld, my shoon's thiz,
Gie's my cakes, and let me rin!
Kindly housewives then give the children oaten cakes.

ACCORDING to the *Shepherd's Kalender* (1708), "if New Year's Day in the morning open with dusky red clouds, it denotes strife and debates among great ones, and many robberies to happen that year."

I imagine not without a reflective pleasure, Mr. Baldwin, Mr. Asquith, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald and Sir William Horwood (Commissioner of Police) passing sleepless nights at the windows of their little attic, eagerly awaiting the dawn of the New Year in order to be forewarned of the events of the future. This sort of "Kalender," by the way, is really practical.

I shall give up listening-in to hear the weather forecast broadcasted; they confine themselves to the weather, and never tell me anything chatty about debates and robberies, or even the probable result of the two-thirty race on Tuesday.

However.

A CUSTOM of a more serious kind is connected with the Bible. On New Year's Day the Bible is laid on a table unopened and the person wishing to consult it opens it at random and places his finger at once on any chapter contained in the two open pages. The chapter is then read aloud and discussed by those present. It is believed that the good or ill fortune of the consultant may be foreseen from the contents of the chapter.

As a small boy I remember to have seen a somewhat similar proceeding in the south of Ireland, among a family of Church people (by which I mean not Roman Catholics). After grave consideration whether to pursue a certain course in regard to a family matter of great importance. The family assembled and the father uttered a short prayer asking for guidance. Two slips of paper, exactly similar, were then obtained; on one was written "Yes," and on the other "No."

The two slips were then placed in the family Bible, protruding a little, and the youngest member of the family—a child of six or seven—drew one of them. The father read the word written on it, and was guided by it in his subsequent action. Of course, I am expressing no opinion here as to the wisdom or unwisdom of the proceeding; I merely record it as an interesting fact for which I can vouch.

NEW YEAR in Scotland is the season of gift-giving and merry-making—both matters of which the Scots are no mean judge. (I intend no slur. You mean judge. I mean he is careful. Scotsman, is not mean; he is careful, but his hospitality is a thing that would make an Arab blush, ashamed of his poor efforts to entertain you.)

Over the haggis—that national dish cunningly compounded of minced mutton (interiors), meal, suet and seasoning, tightly tied up in a sheep's stomach and boiled in it—there will be much joy and plenty of that dry humour that savours a joke critically and with the appreciation of a connoisseur.

I was at a loss for some time to understand why an orange, stuck with cloves, was at one time a most popular New Year's gift, but I think I have found the explanation. Thomas Lupton, in his *Second Book of Noble Things*, says:—

Wyme will be pleasant in taste and savour, if an orange or a lymon (stick round about with cloves) be hanged wthin the vessel that it touch not the wyme; and so the wyme will be preserved from foyntness and evill savour.

A pleasant conceit, my masters.

WELL, a Happy New Year to you all, ye people of the Northlands. I need not remind you to repeat, with sincere sincerity, that most exquisite Grace After Meat spoken by Robert Burns at the table of the Earl of Selkirk:—
Some has meat that comes out,
And some would eat that want it;
But we has meat, and we can eat,
See let the Lord be thankit.



A DANGEROUS GAME.

THE ANGLICANS AND ROME.

REUNION NOT AT ALL POSSIBLE.

ROCKS IN THE WAY.

LEADERS' VIEWS.

The ecclesiastical bombshell thrown by the Archbishop of Canterbury into the ranks of his followers concerning the reunion of the Church of Rome with the Church of England has exploded with great force.

In a letter he told of private conferences which took place in Belgium between Church of England dignitaries (including himself) and Roman Catholic prelates. The object of the conversations was to knock down the barriers separating these two great Christian bodies.

The following views on the question were given to "The People" yesterday:

Rev. Siles Kite Meeking, the well-known novelist and champion of Non-conformity:

"As far as my personal view is concerned, it is that such conversations can lead to no good unless the Church of England is prepared to give up its Protestant position."

"As between Protestantism—that is, speaking of the doctrines of the Reformation—and the teaching of the Church of Rome there is a great gulf, and no mere friendly conversations can bridge it."

"Unless the Church of Rome will give up a great many of its claims and pretensions, or the Church of England sacrifice its doctrinal position, there can be no chance of union."

THE FREE CHURCHES.

"Between the Church of England and the Free Churches of England the case is entirely different."

"Both are Protestant churches, both accept the same body of doctrine, and the difference between them is largely a matter of ecclesiastical polity."

"Hence efforts to bring these churches into union are much more likely to lead to success. But the attempt to unite the Church of Rome with the Church of England is impossible."

Mr. J. A. Kensit, Secretary of the Protestant Truth Society:

"To my mind the whole situation is old, but the Archbishop of Canterbury has been caught napping by the extreme High Church party."

"There are such radical differences between the two churches that no accommodation can possibly overcome them."

"The English Church at the Reformation nailed the flag of Protestantism to the mast, which meant in effect the giving to every man the right of private judgement."

"The question the nation has to ask is—Is it prepared to go back?"

"He would be an exceedingly clever man who could make England set its watch by the Vatican clock and thus carry us back 400 years!"

The Rev. W. Pennington Bickford, Rector of St. Clement Dances, the Strand:

"I regard this attempt at union with Rome as an impossible, unfortunate and disastrous movement; impossible because it would mean complete surrender of the Church of England to the Church of Rome, unfortunate because of the offence it must give to our other religious denominations, thereby frustrating any hope of an ultimate union with them, and disastrous as it would mean the end of the established Church."

BUYING THE PONY.

COURT REQUEL TO COSTER'S CELEBRATION.

Described as a rabbit costermonger, Alfred Lewis, of Kilburn, was summoned at Willesden for assaulting his wife.

Complainant declared that defendant, who had not been sober for weeks and would be dragged out of bed by the hair, struck and kicked her, smashed the front of the wardrobe, tore up the bed clothes, and then lay down on the floor and went to sleep.

Defendant: Why, you know the pair of us got drunk together after I bought the pony.

Complainant: At any rate, I'm still black and blue all over.

The case was adjourned for a few minutes, and the wife withdrew from the court with Mrs. Acoroth, the lady magistrate, who was sitting with Colonel Pritchard.

Mrs. Acoroth reported there were still bruises evident, and, after further evidence, defendant, after a caution, was bound over.

FLANNELETTE DANGER.

Octopussy's Fatal Burns in Bedroom.

Hearing screams issuing from a house in Dalway-st., Tottenham, the neighbours entered and found the occupant, Alfred Gadsby (38) in flames.

His flannelette nightgown had caught alight while he was standing by the gas stove in his bedroom warming himself. After the flames had been extinguished by a blanket he was taken to the North Middlesex Hospital, Edmonton, where he died.

At the inquest at the hospital, a verdict of accidental death was recorded, the coroner commenting upon the danger of wearing flannelette.

THE KING'S CHARITY.

The King has forwarded the following amounts, among others, from the State Apartments: Fund: King Edward VII. Hospital, Windsor, £1,000; Queen Mary's Free Fund, £300; for hospital tickets, £200; Princess Christian Infant Nursery, £200; Windsor and Eton Royal Albert Institution, £200; Windsor, Royal and District Association for Preventive and Rescue Work, £200.

DOG'S EVICTION DAY.

Two dogs' day is the worst in the year for dogs, many being turned out of homes on the expiration of the yearly licence. The National Canine Defence League offer to take charge of dogs no longer wanted.

CINEMA THRILL IN A "SMOKER."

TRAGEDY, COMEDY, OR A STUNT?

Condemnation of the closed railway carriage, revived by a recent accident due to the fright of a girl passenger, is likely to receive the ardent support of two Eastbourne residents, whose experience has left them rubbing their eyes with amazement.

The two men entered at Eastbourne a smoking compartment on a non-stop train for Victoria, the only other passenger being a middle-aged woman.

After about an hour's travelling the woman's strange behaviour attracted the attention of the two men. She was leaning so far out of the carriage window as to be near to overbalancing.

Suddenly, without warning, the door flew open. Both men made a grab at the woman and pulled her to safety. They remonstrated with her for giving them a shock, and counselled her not to be so foolish again.

FOOTBOARD FEATS.

She then told a tragic story, according to which her husband had gone to Canada without her. After this narrative she appeared to become quite normal, until shortly afterwards her fellow-passengers were again startled by the carriage door flying open.

On arrival at London she quickly left the carriage and disappeared.

Even now the two men are not sure whether their extraordinary fellow-traveller was a lunatic or a trick cinema actress, or a genuine case of intended suicide.

She was instantly seized and once more dragged back.

Laughingly she told the now thoroughly alarmed men that she did not intend doing anything silly, but that she was an acrobat and was in the habit of climbing outside the carriages of express trains and walking along the footboards.

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MYSTERY OF CLUB FIRE.

"A LOT OF RUMOURS."

CORONER AND FATE OF TWO MEMBERS.

Rumours that followed a mystery fire at Cwmarn (Mon.) Working Men's Club on Boxing Night were alluded to yesterday by the coroner at an inquest on two men whose bodies were found in the ruins.

The victims were James Nicholson (25) and Archibald Davies (25), colliers, of Bernard-st., Cwmarn.

The steward of the club, Lewis Richards, said that after closing the premises as usual he invited a party of friends, including Nicholson and Davies, to his house, which adjoined the club.

Early in the morning the alarm of fire was raised by a passer-by, and a witness, accompanied by his friends, rushed to the club with the object of saving as much of the furniture as possible.

The coroner: Did you see Nicholson and Davies in the club-room? I would not like to say. The whole of the party rushed out with me, and Nicholson and Davies were among them. When the alarm was given the two men were in my house.

The coroner: I am glad to hear you say that. It disposes of a lot of rumours floating about. No doubt a lot of evil-disposed people think that the two fellows were in the club-room when you looked up, and were under the influence of drink. I am pleased to hear you say definitely that they could not have been in the room.

CORONER'S CRITICISM.

Remarkable evidence was given by Henry Victor Charles, steward of the Constitutional Club, which is opposite the wrecked club.

He said that about 1.20 a.m. on Thursday he heard a party of seven or eight lads singing in the street. They called at his club, but left soon afterwards.

It seemed to him that they had been to the club to get a drink and that Mr. Richards would not give them any. They could not have been in the club for more than two minutes.

Later he noticed that a fire had broken out.

The coroner: Can it have been that these seven or eight young men were not in the club but in the porch?

Witness: I should agree that they were not actually in the club.

Mr. Trevor Griffiths (for Mr. Richards, the steward): It is rather significant that you should come to give this evidence so late in the day.—Witness: I was not asked before.

The coroner: It was your duty as a citizen to give any information that might be of assistance to the authorities. You are certainly lacking in not coming forward when it is your duty to do so.

The coroner, summing up, said it had been proved beyond doubt that both Nicholson and Davies were sober and that no imputations or aspersions of any kind could be cast upon them. As far as the steward was concerned, he thought he had done his utmost.

The jury, in returning a verdict of accidental death, expressed the opinion that the two men lost their lives by rushing into the club to save their things.

LOST GIRL RETURNS.

PARENTS' TWO DAYS' ORDEAL AT AN END.

After being away from her parents for two nights, Miss Dorothy Crawley, a pretty 18-year-old girl, returned last night no worse for the experience.

Miss Crawley, who is the daughter of Mr. P. D. Crawley, the sub-manager of an agency in Wei-hai-wei, now on holiday in London, was staying with relatives in Swanbeck-rd., Chiswick, but disappeared mysteriously on Thursday night.

She had been with her parents to the circus at Olympia, and on returning to the home of her relatives told them she intended to sleep at the same house as her father and mother. Next morning her father found a note from her saying she was going away, and asking her parents not to worry about her.

Inquiries in various directions by the police and relatives proved unavailing until her parents were greatly relieved when the girl arrived home unexpectedly last night. Her father had issued an appeal to her through the Press to return home.

Miss Crawley was educated at a convent, and had lived with her father in China for some years.

THIS MORNING'S LATEST LINES.

Giving evidence at an inquest at Loughborough, Leics, on his mother, Arthur Burton said he did not know his father's Christian name or occupation.

Mixed bathing and swimming parties, introduced by the Royal Baths at Bath, have proved very successful. Bathers were served with hot coffee while in the water.

Harry Harland, clerk, who was sent for trial at Middlesex on a charge of having introduced himself to a war widow as the I.L.P. delegate and pensions inspector. He obtained, it was alleged, £20 from the woman.

The Prince of Wales has consented to present the prizes to the successful students in the Commercial Education Examinations of the London Chamber of Commerce at the Mansion House on January 25.

Child Seized to Death.—A four-year-old child, named Eric Adams, fell into a bucket of hot water, at his home in Georgetown, Merthyr, and died from scalds.

Tea Crusade.—Mr. Charles Higham will sail for America on Wednesday on behalf of the India Tea Crusade to inaugurate a campaign in that country to reduce the tea drinking habit.

Guard's 3,000 Miles.—Mr. John King, guard of the Irish Mail from Fishguard to Paddington, retired yesterday after 45 years' service with the G.W.R. He has travelled over 3,000 miles on the line.

Kellyway in Collision.—Mr. F. G. Kellyway was driving his two daughters back to London after a dance at Greenford, Middlesex, when his car collided with a taxi cab at Ealing Common. The Misses Kellyway were out about the face, but were able to continue their journey.

Found Hanged.—A verdict of suicide while of unsound mind was returned at an inquest at Greenhalgh, near Kirkham, Lancs., yesterday, on Andrew Backhouse (64), farm labourer, who was found hanging from a hayrack at Moss side Hall Farm. He had suffered from depression and was of weak intellect.

POLICE GUARD ON STRICKEN FARM.

HURRIED SEARCH FOR A MAN OF THE MOMENT.

Twelve cases of foot-and-mouth disease have been discovered within the borough of Burton-on-Trent.

In order to obviate delay a hurried search was made by local officials to find the Inspector of the Ministry of Agriculture. After telephoning to all the hotels of Lichfield, the neighbouring city, he was found.

A police guard was mounted on the farm, and only authorised visitors allowed. These were disinfected on leaving.

A further outbreak was reported yesterday from Boreham, a village near Chelmsford, and all markets between Chelmsford and Ongar are closed in consequence.

A special prayer has been written asking for deliverance from the cattle scourge. This was read at Chester Cathedral. One phrase is as follows:

"O Lord, who didst not despise the companionship of the ox and the ass, have pity on our cattle in Cheshire, and turn away the plague that has fallen upon them."

Professor Pfeiler, the German physiologist, believes that he has found a method of cultivating a whole class of invisible microbes which produce disease in men as well as in cattle. They are the cause of measles, scarlet fever, and many other human maladies, as well as of foot-and-mouth disease and probably distemper in dogs.

The professor does not claim to have seen the microbe which spreads the infection, but is confident that he can cultivate it in mass; and out of his culture make a vaccine and serum which will render cattle and children proof against infection.

He hopes to do for measles and foot-and-mouth disease what has been done for smallpox and rabies.

RICKETS CURE.

CHANCE OF REFITTING "C3" VICTIMS.

A cure for rickets was announced by Dr. J. B. Orr, director of the Rowett Institute of Research in Animal Nutrition, when delegates to the annual conference of the Educational Institute of Scotland visited Aberdeen.

"This cure will be given to every mother in the poor quarters of our cities," he added, "so that a C3 population may become an A1 nation."

SMALLPOX SCOURGE.

FOUR FRESH CASES IN LEICESTERSHIRE.

Four fresh cases of smallpox have broken out in Leicestershire. Leicester-shire. Other cases under supervision and the medical men are expecting the outbreak to develop. The cases from this village now number eight.

FATE OF BRIDE OF 40.

SAID TO HAVE DRUNK POISON WEEK AFTER MARRIAGE.

Mrs. Flanagan (40), a Portsmouth woman, who was married a week ago, was found unconscious yesterday morning in a piece of waste land at Southsea with an empty bottle of lysoi lying near by.

She died in hospital later.

A note to her husband, brothers and sisters read: "My brain has turned. Good-bye."

SIR FREDERICK NORMAN.

Resignation from Liberal Party After 50 Years' Support.

Sir Frederick Norman has severed his connection with the Liberal Party on account of what he calls "the organised hypocrisy in the Liberal Party in the North-west division since the war."

"During the war," he said in an interview, "many Liberals in the division became professed, and because I have spoken strongly against it they have gounded on me. I am proud that I am worth only half the money that I was worth before the war."

Sir Frederick has been connected with Liberalism in the North-west Division of Cheshire for 50 years. His resignation from the presidency of the Buncorn Liberal Association was announced last week.

THE RESIGNATION OF THE BISHOP OF ELY.

Dr. Chase, who will take effect on February 3, a collection will be made on Tuesday at railway stations throughout the United Kingdom in aid of the Railway Benevolent Institution.

The condition of the Rev. S. Baring Gould, rector of Lew Trenchard, Devon, the well-known author, is reported to be very bad.

The marriage arranged between Earl Winterston, M.P., and the Hon. Monica Wilson will take place on Feb. 28 in London.

Mrs. T. H. R. Hughes, of Neussdaff, near Lampeter, has completed 12 years as master of the Neussdaff Foxhounds. To mark the occasion she was presented with a diamond fox brooch and £200.

Less Divorce.—Divorce cases disposed of in the Court of Session, Edinburgh, during 1923 numbered 370, compared with 401 in 1922, 523 in 1921, and 610 in 1920.

Cancer from Grease.—A verdict of cancer set up by working continuously in grease was returned at a Sunderland inquest on Thomas Taylor (56), railway storekeeper, who had been employed for many years in greasing sleepers.

Fell on to Hay-Fork.—Mr. A. Baxter, a miner of Thringstone, Leicestershire, in the Loughborough Hospital, suffering from a severe abdominal wound, sustained through falling from a haystack on to the tines of a hay-fork.

70 Years' School Record.—A lad named Weeden has just left the Caterham Central School, Caterham-st., S.E., and his father has written to the headmaster to say that it is the first time in 70 years that there has been no member of the Weeden family at the school.

Suicide Follows Scatica.—A verdict of suicide whilst of unsound mind was returned at the inquest on John Freckler (60), of Lonsdale-st., Elton, Bury, who was found in a stooping position hanging by a scarf to the bedpost. He had suffered from rheumatism and scatica and had complained of pains in his head.

DRAMA OF SHOT IN A SHOP.

LOVERS' BREACH.

ACCUSED YOUTH'S TEARS IN THE DOCK.

Walter James Edward Wright (25), of St. Leonards, was charged at Hastings with the attempted murder of Miss Elsie Marie Palmer (22), of Winchelsea-rd., Ore, Hastings.

Wright burst into tears when he entered the dock, and throughout the proceedings was in a state of collapse.

The Chief Constable said that Miss Palmer was still in hospital, but was proceeding satisfactorily. Wright and the girl had been keeping company for three or four years.

The other night, said the officer, in the evening Wright went to the sweet-shop where the girl was employed. Miss Palmer and another assistant heard the clicking noise of a revolver as it was refused to act.

Wright went out of the shop, but returned and walked straight through and met Miss Palmer at the entrance to a small room. There was a flash and a report, and Miss Palmer fell.

The strange thing, added the Chief Constable, was that Police-Constable Smith had gone into the shop to leave his cape, and immediately after the shot Wright turned round and faced Smith, with a smoking revolver in his hand. Smith at once closed with him and took away the revolver.

Police-Constable Smith said that just before the report he heard Miss Palmer say: "Go out of it."

Wright was asked if he had any questions to put, and he replied in a loud voice: "No, sir." He was remanded in custody until next Wednesday.

RECTOR ACQUITTED.

DESTITUTE WIFE'S APPEAL TO GUARDIANS.

The Rev. J. J. McNair, Rector of Odell, Bedfordshire, appeared before the Bedford magistrates, yesterday charged with leaving his wife chargeable to the Bedford Union.

It was stated that McNair went away in December, 1922, leaving his wife destitute, and that last month she applied to the Guardians for relief. He was arrested at St. Albans.

McNair, giving evidence, said he left his wife at her request, and she said she would be able to support herself. He did not know she was destitute until he heard she had applied to the Guardians.

He had received no money from the living, and had been doing odd gardening jobs at Bourne-mouth.

The magistrates said they did not think McNair intended to leave his wife destitute and dismissed the case.

PAYING FOR A PALACE.

Hornsey Town Council has decided to contribute the equivalent of a halfpenny rate (about £1,400) to the Alexandra Palace, in response to a deputation of the trustees.

The Middlesex Council have also decided to contribute £2,000 towards the financial needs of the Palace.

Corkhill, who had no trouble, had promised to be home for dinner.



Your wife is not looking well.

Mr. Fatherly—No, we're rather worried about the Baby, you know.

Chemist—I'm sorry to hear that. What is the trouble?

Mr. Fatherly (confidentially)—My little wife was bent on feeding the youngascal, but now she finds it rather a strain.

Chemist—That's unfortunate. It's very unwise to pursue that course if it is affecting her health.

Mr. Fatherly—Exactly, but what is one to do? I have suggested trying the COW & GATE MILK FOOD one sees advertised. What do you think?

Chemist—You could do no better. COW & GATE MILK FOOD is undoubtedly the closest to human milk yet discovered. Infinitely better than ordinary cow's milk.

Mr. Fatherly—How is that?

Chemist—In the first place, cow's milk, whilst being suitable for calves and healthy adults, is not at all suitable for tiny babies.

Mr. Fatherly—How does COW & GATE MILK FOOD differ?

Chemist—The ordinary milks are rendered easily digestible, and do not curdle in the Baby's stomach—it is made from only the pure milk of Dorset and Devonshire cows—it is securely protected from contamination, and, most important of all, it develops firm, healthy flesh, bone and muscle.

Mr. Fatherly—Well, you really speak most convincingly. I'll take a tin up home with me now.

Chemist—There is no need to put the Baby entirely on COW & GATE MILK FOOD. Start with one or two tins a day, and get the wife to take some herself; it will do her world of good.

Mr. Fatherly—Thanks for your advice; we will

THE TURF

BY LARRY LYNX.

"Larry Lynx" cannot be carried by post with readers, but will appear through "The People" any time of general interest. He is a regular contributor to "The People," St. Louis, Mo., U.S.A.

FIRST BIG JUMPING OF THE SEASON.

BEST TIP FOR THE MANCHESTER NEW YEAR MEETING: FOLLOW COULTHWAITE.

THE New Year meeting at Manchester is really the first big jumping fixture of the season, and it is a pity that so richly-endowed a programme has to suffer opposition on one of its days. The superior person will not doubt say that Glatwick will not affect Manchester, and that there is room for both. But I do know that the northern meeting will be given a slip by many who would have been there had there been no Glatwick.

The Victory Steeplechase on New Year's Day will be the tip-off for the Lancashire holiday-makers. Last year Haddon won it, and he carries the same weight, 12st. 7lb., now. It is said to be fancied, but has no chance of beating Mr. Madcap on the book if a race on the flat at Cardiff in May is any criterion. Mr. Madcap is, I know, greatly fancied.

Forewarned is well and fancied, and Arravale has had a special preparation. Ben Cruickan comes over from Ireland, and may be ridden by Tony Scott, but I have good accounts of another Irish horse.

BOOTHING GLASS. who won the Cheltenham Grand Annual Steeplechase last March, and has since been doing well over hurdles in Ireland.

The Victory Hurdle on Wednesday is only half the value of the Steeplechase; still, a "monkey" is not an insignificant prize to pick up. Southwark is a strong favourite, and he will probably take the prize, though not with Farrier, for 12st. 3lb. is scarcely a fair racing weight. I understand that West Countryman will carry his hopes and some little confidence.

Flaming Sword has missed several engagements of late, and if he goes for this he will be a hard nut to crack. There are possibilities about Perry Hill, and Jackdale in a useful, genuine hurdler who has been given a decided chance. I shall, however, go for—

WEST COUNTRYMAN. There appear to be one or two outstanding good things at Manchester, but I think the best general tip I can give for the meeting is—follow Coulthwaite.

THE 1924 DERBY.

HORSES WHO ARE LIKELY TO PLAY A BIG PART.

WHAT is the winter favourite for the Derby? You might make the inquiry of a dozen leading professional, and not one of them would be able to give you a satisfactory reply. Winter wagers on the Blue Riband are dead as mutton. Years ago thousands of pounds were wasted during the winter months on the big Derby steeplechase. But in those days there was little winter racing to occupy attention, whilst the number of really big events during a season did not number a quarter of those of the present day.

That is one reason why we now have no winter Derby wagers, though it is not the only one. Punters have tumbled to the fact that they have nothing to gain by being in a hurry to have a dabble on the Derby. Patience is its own reward, especially in regard to this particular event. But at present of the season we usually find time to discuss the situation and sum up the chances of the horses who in another few hours will be three-year-olds.

Despite her failure at Kempton, I do not suppose anyone will dispute the fact that Mumtaz Mahal was the dominating juvenile of the season. She is in the Derby, but though I regard her defeat by Arcade as a fluke—for she would no doubt have given him the 7lb. on firm going—I do not put her down as a potential Derby candidate. Few with her terrific speed stay, and this filly may be no exception to the rule.

Two Powerful Stables. Mantion and Whatcombe are a couple of stables which might be taken coupled against the remainder, though there is Fred Darling's string to be taken into serious consideration. Lord Astor's turn to win a Derby is much overdue, and he will have a very formidable candidate in Bright Knight, but whether he will be the pick of Alec Taylor's lot I should not care to commit myself. The Mantion sage never hurries his two-year-olds, and in early portions of recent years whippers have jacked out about a "dark" Mantion two-year-old who ultimately became a hot classic candidate. I remember such was the case with Craig-an-Erau, the possibilities of whom were mentioned in these columns at a time when few were aware there was such a colt in training. I confess I have no present knowledge of another "dark" Mantion juvenile, but St. Germans is, however, a Mantion youngster who may be smarter than four unsuccessful outings may suggest.

One of two of the "early promoters" went off, and we can recall the upset of David's Obedience in the Mantion Derby when 100 to 1 was laid on. Reverting to Mantion, Mr. Somerville Tattersall may have a say in the argument. I expect his best will be Hurstwood, who is likely to prove a better stayer than Eton Wick.

Concerning Donelson. When second to Salmon Trout, Hurstwood had behind him Donelson, who was running for the first time, and who was a very different colt shortly afterwards when winning at Harewood Park. Donelson can only twice, and he may be anything. It remains to be seen what progress he makes during the winter, though, of course, that applies to all the two-year-olds of the past season.

"Glimcrack" winners, like Brocksley winners, very frequently earn rather a shabby reputation, but it is to be hoped the rule will prove an exception to the rule. He is, at any rate, unwatered, and in the ordinary course should be Lord Derby's best classic candidate. At one time there were great hopes of the King's cold, Knight of the Garter. He is tried to stay, but he certainly did not run like it in his later engagements.

I have made an allusion to Mumtaz Mahal and Salmon Trout. But the best of R. C. Dawson's lot will, I fully expect, be Diophan. He was only once beaten, when falling to give 10lb. to Woodend, and there was nothing wrong with his form when winning the Middle Park Stakes. Reverting to the Middle Park Stakes, I am certain, unwatered, and straight in to be engaged. A "dark" one of Fred Darling's is Tom

Pinch, who has not yet run. Taking the two-year-old form as a guide—and it is a very poor guide—

Diophan has the best Derby prospects.

WEEK'S CARDS.

A HEAVY NEW YEAR PROGRAMME.

BEFORE the New Year is welcomed at Manchester, we have a capital day's sport to-morrow at Cheltenham. The Great Western Railway Co. have done much towards making racing here, as they have done at Newbury, and to-morrow they are running a new special train from Paddington. The speed has been greatly increased since the last meeting, and with stops only at Reading and Oxford, the whole journey will take less than three hours on the special. The return train will arrive at Paddington at 7.0 p.m. Swindon is to be served by a separate special, leaving at 11.0 a.m.

SQUARE DANCE was an unlucky loser at Newbury, but if sent to Cheltenham should be followed for the Charlton Steeplechase.

THE BREEKA must carry our big wagers for the Loughborough Steeplechase, whilst SANCORP reads good for the Amateur Riders' Hurdle.

Much more important is the Manchester meeting, where on Tuesday STUFF GOWN is, of course, a good thing for the Club Four-Year-Old Hurdle.

NEWTOWN WONDER in the Castle Hurdle, is, on what I saw at Derby, the best thing of the day with Frank Wootton riding. I have gone for **SOUTHWICK GLASS** in the big Steeplechase, and our only other wagers is **THE BREEKA**, if reserved for the New Year's Steeplechase.

On the second afternoon **BRIGHT'S ROY** is one with a decided chance in the Broughton Hurdle, whilst Mr. Ted Arnold's colours may again be carried successfully by **LIFE BUOY**, in the Peel Park Hurdle. The Victory Hurdle I have left to

WEST COUNTRYMAN and **THE RED KNIGHT** appears good for the Canal Steeplechase.

Gatwick opposes Manchester on Wednesday, where **SQUARE DANCE**, if mislaid Cheltenham, should take the Crawley Steeplechase. I shall give **MITCHELLS** another chance in the Moderate Hurdle, whilst I hear **CARROLTOWN** is expected to win the Purley Steeplechase, with **PERAHARA** good for the Four-Year-Old Hurdle.

On Thursday **PROVIDENCE**, if seen out, should win the Leatherhead Steeplechase; and **FLAMING SWORD**

(if missing Manchester, is the day's good thing in the Reigate Hurdle. **CARROLTOWN** crops up again for the Amateur Riders' Steeplechase, and **HARROVIAN** should be followed for the Maiden Hurdle.

At Hurst Park on Friday **BODDAM** will be hard to beat for the New Year Hurdle, and **SHAUN SPADAM** may take the January Steeplechase; with

TIBET the day's good thing in the Mole Hurdle. At Haydock Park on Friday I fancy **WESTVIEW** for the Ashton Hurdle, **COULTHWAITE** SELECTED in the Warrington Hurdle, and **FLY MASK** the Gerard Steeplechase.

RACING JOTTINGS.

POINTS OF INTEREST FROM RECENT SPORT.

A likely Manchester New Year's combination—Tom Coulthwaite and Frank Wootton.

Of Larry Lynx's seven selections at Doncaster last week three were non-runners, all the others winners, including the 10 to 1 Tedvey. But for George Clancy with Fibber, the Eton trainers would have swept the board at Kempton on Boxing Day.

Cavalier will have to be considerably dropped in the handicap to have a chance, for he is not so keen on racing as he was. The surprise packet of the holiday meetings—the p. of Tedvey, 10 to 1, at Wolverhampton.

Tom Crow came from Ireland with a great reputation as a safe fencer, but he has not met the test of the professionals. He was the general impression that Square Dance was most unlikely to be beaten by Bellini in the United Services Steeplechase. I am told to be on the look-out for Dr. Barror, who has recently been sent from Ireland into Major Doyle's charge.

It was a true public holiday making crowd at Kempton for Boxing Day. The day's sport was most good, and it was a pity that the most part gave it a miss, and did not see the professionals. He was the general impression that Square Dance was most unlikely to be beaten by Bellini in the United Services Steeplechase. I am told to be on the look-out for Dr. Barror, who has recently been sent from Ireland into Major Doyle's charge.

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LARRY LYNX'S SELECTIONS AT A GLANCE.

CHELTENHAM.

Monday—Loughborough Steeplechase—THE BREEKA
Charlton Steeplechase—SQUARE DANCE
Amateur Riders' Steeplechase—SANCORP

MANCHESTER.

New Year Steeplechase—THE BREEKA
Castle Hurdle—NEWTOWN WONDER
Gerard Steeplechase—STUFF GOWN
Four-Year-Old Hurdle—SOUTHWICK GLASS

Wednesday—THE RED KNIGHTS
Broughton Hurdle—BRIGHT'S ROY
Victory Hurdle—WEST COUNTRYMAN
Peel Park Hurdle—LIFE BUOY

SATWICK.

Crawley Steeplechase—SQUARE DANCE
Moderate Hurdle—MITCHELLS
Purley Steeplechase—CARROLTOWN
Four-Year-Old Hurdle—PERAHARA

Thursday—PROVIDENCE
Broughton Hurdle—FLAMING SWORD
Amateur Riders' Steeplechase—HARROVIAN
Maiden Hurdle—CARROLTOWN

HURST PARK.

New Year Hurdle—BODDAM
January Steeplechase—SHAUN SPADAM
Mole Hurdle—TIBET

HAYDOCK PARK.

Ashton Hurdle—WESTVIEW
Warrington Hurdle—COULTHWAITE'S SELECTED
Gerard Steeplechase—FLY MASK

BEST THING.

Larry Lynx's Suggested Best Thing of the Week is

NEWTOWN WONDER

in the Castle Hurdle at Manchester on Tuesday.

Mr. J. Masker will be a big supporter of Irish racing next year. He has 50 horses in training with Parkmore at the Curragh.

On what I saw at Derby I consider Newtown Wonder, in the Castle Hurdle, to be the best thing of the week, for I understand Frank Wootton will ride.

Le Cellier was genuinely expected to beat Charlie Wise in the Reading Steeplechase, and when certain lower he was up with Charlie, whilst Ian Ross had not moved on him.

The race for the jumping jockeys' championship is as keen as that between Foulshue and Elliott in the flat. But what hard luck for Captain Bennet to be knocked out at the crucial moment!

Haddon has the same weight—12 st. 7 lb.—in the Victory Steeplechase at Manchester as he carried in the corresponding event twelve months ago. He is a certain starter, and again expected to go close.

After being three times second and once third, Peter Brook broke his leg as a hurdler on Wednesday, and then he was not so sweet on the job, nor yet was Mobs, the second.

What a number of people know the strength of that gallop of Captain Bennet, who has been in the County Steeplechase at Wolverhampton.

So Savernake sidestepped Civic Guard at Kempton. Perhaps Mr. Purcell did the best thing, though visitors were deprived of what would have been the tip-off of the Kempton meeting.

Micky Hehir paid a fruitless journey to Kempton from Doncaster when he purchased a charge, Prince Chiffon, for the Waterloo Steeplechase. He might have scored had he stood up.

Mr. Jan. White's jockey next year is to be a student, who is at present riding in India, and who had a few months ago last year. He rides at 7st. 5lb. Mr. White has at present 35 horses in training.

Turkey Buzzard was only meeting with his last year's partner, the Duke of Bedford, at Doncaster Park. But do not forget that Miss Hall, starting a better favourite, fell. When a horse falls there is generally some reason for it.

Now Argent has to be added to the list of really smart hurdling recruits. He was backed for the Fulwell Hurdle as a sure winner, and he was the one, and it is certain to score again with his penally.

Chang was a great chaser in the days of the war-time Nationals at Gatwick, but he is now a steady rider, and a "teaser" at Tattersall's. He cannot now win a selling scheme with practically bottom weight.

Squire, the underling New Year's lower, has a chance of going one better in the Crawley Steeplechase at Gatwick on Wednesday, for the opposition is not likely to be great.

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STABLE HINTS

FROM CHIEF JUMPING CENTRES.

NEWBURY.—We shall have a few runners at Newbury. Our best on Tuesday appeared to be Morning Star in the January Steeplechase. Trivette may win the Broughton Hurdle on Wednesday, he having gone very well in a gallop over hurdles recently. Perryhill goes to the Broughton Hurdle, and he is probably the best of the lot. James Figg will run well in the Manchester Steeplechase on Wednesday.

SPRING.—On Tuesday at Manchester are not much fancied, but at Gatwick Test Match may win the Crawley Steeplechase, and what the Purley Steeplechase.

MANCHESTER.—The Breeze is likely to win the Castle Hurdle. Squire, the lower, has a chance of going one better in the Crawley Steeplechase at Gatwick on Wednesday, for the opposition is not likely to be great.

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By SPECTATOR.

INDIVIDUALISTS OF THE PAST.

Of late years there has been a maximum amount of discouragement for men and many a good man has lost his skill in consequence. "Get rid of it," has been the common cry on most grounds if a forward attempts to dribble, and swayed by the appeals he has oftentimes parted with the ball when it would have been more beneficial to his side to have kept going on his own initiative.

There has been a great scream for more goals, and, after all, that is what the game is all about. All the beautiful

The Royal St. David's G.C. Christmas open meeting was concluded yesterday

COUNTY BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIP.

Intending competitors in the English Bowling Association's County Bowls Championship, which is now in the hands of Mr. P. M. Vigne, have been notified that the final draw will be held at the County Club, 446, Bank Chambers, 22nd, High Holborn, London, W.C. 1, on Monday, 12th March, at 7.30 p.m. and wish to participate.

In the final competition, won by Surrey for the fourth time, there were 21 entrants. Next year Warwickshire joins in, and it is probable, after the success of the Warwickshire team, that the final annual meeting, that the northern counties will be rearranged to avoid long-distance travelling, unless the County Cup is to be made more attractive.

The winning county holds the "Middleton Cup," and the players who can receive a complimentary E. A. B. badge.

PORTLAND PARK.

FIXTURES & FORECAST:

**A FINE DISPLAY OF THE GAME
IN INTER-CITY MATCH.**

SALFORD NOTES.
The Salford Association whose term, as reported last week, was rather unkind to lose to Whitehead and Pritchard in the second round of the Salford League, has been the subject of much of fortune's favours since it broke away from the Manchester Association and secured a considerable increase in about 15 years ago. It is a difficult matter for a new association working alongside an old one to establish and build up a reputation, but the Salford Association in Cud-lea and League success than many would expect. They realize, that however much success is permitted to be desired, it is not the main thing, but the moral and physical improvement of the children of Salford.

NORTHFLEET S.F.A.
A very good example of the readiness of teachers in Northfleet to take part in the Salford Association is shown in the following list of names of the teachers who have been elected to the Northfleet S.F.A. committee.

Teams expected to win in capitals—otherwise draw:—

FIRST LEAGUE—BIRMINGHAM v. Tottenham; **HATFIELD** v. **CARDIFF CITY** v. **ASTON VILLA**; **CHELSEA** v. **ARSENAL**; **EVERTON** v. **BOLTON WANDERERS**; **HEART OF MIDlothian** v. **BLACKBURN ROVERS**; **MIDLEBROUGH** v. **Sheffield United**; **NEWCASTLE UNITED** v. **Notts Forest**; **Notts County** v. **Sunderland**; **PRESTON NORTH END** v. **Burnley**; **WEST HAM UNITED** v. **Liverpool**.

Weather and water conditions have been a handicap to angling operations, and yesterday the Thame

continuation out of order for sport, and still has a few more to go. For those who like to hold many more colour and stream, and gold also being poor, but when the water is clear, excellent for catching. The fish are very small, and perch and dace. These fish have been driven into the eddies and lay-beds close to the bank by the swift current. The best baits at present are red worms and cubes of bread-crust.

Muddy conditions also prevail in the Mele, Wey, London, Kennet and other Thames tributaries, and the worst of the fish are, Roach, Great Ouse, Hour glass fish, etc.

The North Ouse, Broder, Great Ouse, Mele and others are clearing, and some big fish are being taken. The salmon, Herring, Potter Heilham and Ormsby waters

Association's County Championship must have the entries in the hands of Mr. E. M. Vigers, hon.

The winning county holds the "Middleton Cup, and the players (34) each receive a commemorative F.B.A. brooch.

Old Loughtonians: 1. Burkhon. 2. Hon. Arthur

[illegible]

Tottenham Hotspur have secured transfer from Pontypriid of Hargreaves.

The transfer fee has not been disclosed but Tottenham are to take their full £100,000 to Pontypridd on Jan. 28, when the W's team's new stand will be opened.

N. FIEBER: Mansford Central, Hackney, 6
10lbs. coalminer. A strong, well-built lad w

FREDERICK HUNT (London), left back, big, confident back who will be heard of again.

JACK AVERY (Staines), right half. A hard worker who did his best against a very fine wing.

R. SHORE (Readington), centre. One of the best players coming out of London.

G. GREENWOOD (Greenwich), who was playing for the Kent boys' team, and he did not disagree with experts who thought him a first-class half.

KENT had three new halves on the field, and kept the opposition outside under strong surveillance.

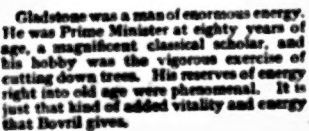
Wandsworth goal, although beaten five times, put up a splendid show under bad conditions.

Withathens opened with ten boys' matches, and the first of these was won by the home team, although the sixteenth arrived. Wray added another before the interval, after which Ealing had more of the fun, and the home team were again on the defensive and away. One of his runs resulted in a penalty, and from the spot kick Young found the net.

In the second half the home team were again out-weighted by South London, for whom Thompson scored all four goals, and when Wray had London would have liked to join him, but he was not in the play, and played well for Greenwich at centre and scored with a fine shot. But his lack of support, and the fact that he was a late arrival, meant that he was not a great ground available for his services, so that no school competitions are possible. They are only occasional matches, and this is a matter calling for urgent and immediate action by the local education authority.

—Alexander the Great.

Don't get tired—take Bovril. Bovril gives you the feeling that you want "new worlds to conquer." It makes you eager for more exercise, more work, more of the enjoyment of life. It does all this because it builds up the vital forces, strengthens you and enables you to extract more nourishment from the other food you eat.



The Body-Building power of Sovril has been proved by independent scientific experiments on human beings to be from 10 to 20 times the amount of Sovril taken.

This was shown to be due to the fact that Sorbit is not only itself a valuable food, but that it possesses remarkable powers of making other foods more nourishing.

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contribution

..... whole tickets at 5/-
half-tickets at 2/6

of knowing that nothing
contribution for prizes.

Enclose £ . . . Please send me { whole tickets at 5/-
..... half-tickets at 2/6

Name in full (Mr., Mrs., or Miss)

Address

.....
this form, cut it out, and post to the British Charities
Home, Kingsway, London, W.C.1.

Cut this out

Don't get tired—drink BOVRIL

BY T

ISTHMIAN
A

The teams drawn to play the first round of which next Saturday, should be exciting duels, and I am sure the prospects of Isthmia will be greatly enhanced.

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There will be only
man clubs clash one
r. Civil Service encoun
Albans v. Wycombe W
that at least two go
will have to take t

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chance of making he
tion, for the one rea
were the successful fi
St. Albans City reach
only to fail against t
both the Service and
a good fight, but tak
games alone there a
them gaining admisi

I expect Dulwich Ham
one of a visit from
The Hamlet will have the
their right-winger, who
part in Isthmian League
is any Cup Competition a
Leiston, too, should a
High Road Ground, but
will not by any means
game should be witness
Dulwich Town, who a
Spotted Dog, should not
anxiety, for the Isthmian

A Replay
Turned Park have
against Royal Marines (C
ground at Plover Lane.
Chatham side has deter
am afraid the "Park"
replay. Turned Park still
and wall trial players
though they have some
all vacancies. These young

There should be a better effort will be entertained again the Isthmians may a draw. On their own a very difficult side to beat that the Isthmians desire to score enough goals to see also faced with a discomfiture, where the Roma County ground. On should beat the City by in Cup football you new

The other game is a
with anything like a rep-
an interest in the Com-
but as many prominent
Corinthians, and the far
Blackburn Rovers in the
F. A. Challenge Cup on
the "Old Boys" will

**ISTHMIA
TUPHILL PARK**
Clapton completed its
defeating Tophill Park
in the first half the
side and led at the in-
terval in the concluding
Clapton centre-forward,
to the visitors' as-
sault of goals for the

agreed the move after a narrow, but a penalty was awarded to equalling the crumblers from long range. The score was 1-1 at half time. The home total with a shot on target. The game took a turn from East to West in the second half on level terms. Prior to the 60th minute, the March happening, the host's lead was 2-1. The Italian's hands, turned until 80 minutes after the whistle. The combination of a home defence and a first goal. After this the bar and Mason was

WIMBLEDON 3.
Wimbledon defeated
rather unexpectedly,
with black hands on t
old and respected ph
doubtless the superio
second half, when the
opponents, but their G
The Wimbledon defe

Dutchman Beats
Ch...

At the Ring last
test, Peter Van I
McAllister (welter-
land) on points. I
test Teddy Baker

Brown (Birmingham) In the six-round (ney) beat Bob Jack Charlie Trainer (Be Gordon (Aldgate), round,

"GNAT" 1

The fourth annual meet takes place on Monday at the Sporting Club, in aid of the American Association of the Deaf, from 4 p. m. to 8 p. m. The program will be staged. In addition to the regular events, the following will be staged:

READY TO

Paris, Saturday

Victor, Moore's new York through the last of the Federation's cable Johnny Dundee, con-

ATTN

A seven miles h
Tumase Valley Har
over such heavy co
starter. The first
4min. start, handi
J. H. Collins (4min
How (4min. 30sec.)
4min., 42min. 43
4min., 43min. 43

The Hampstead Express, a North London newspaper, is invited to compete for the two medals of the London Express, from which it was in the riding of the horse A.C. man who finished with a

EDINBURGH Will
At the Powderhall
annual New Year
and the Powderhall C
3 Yards "No Penalt
bitter weather, and
day, the former crow
of Scotland, with G
Gmina 15 3-ways, an
Leith, with Gyna.

[illegible]

Lincoln, 20; Gloucester, 20; Newport, 12; Plymouth, 10; Glasgow, 10; Manchester, 10; Newbury, 9; Northampton, 8; Birmingham, 6; London, 5; Bristol, 4; Newcastle, 3; Hong Kong and Shanghai, 2.

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